

Trout Stream Classification Checklist (revised 7/2012)

(This checklist should be completed and accompany any trout stream classification changes. Check the items as appropriate and attach comments if desired.)

Stream name:

Little Trimbelle River

(if stream is known by another name please list both names with the more common name first)

County: Pierce WBIC: 2447100

Define the portion of the stream to be classified. Please provide both a written description and the coordinate locations of the upstream and downstream beginning and end points.

All

This written description should reference permanent, unambiguous landmarks that would allow a person unfamiliar with the area to locate the points (e.g., dams, road crossings, stream confluences, county lines, section lines, township lines)

Please provide coordinate locations in one of three formats:

Longitude/Latitude (Degrees, Minutes, Seconds): 89° 41' 28.7" W, 44° 55' 14.0" N

Longitude/Latitude (Decimal Degrees): -89.691332, 44.920576

WTM91 (easting and northing in meters): 544361, 494173

Upstream point coordinates: -92.540913 44.680102

Downstream point coordinates: -92.574669 44.632340

Classification proposed Class 1

- Fish survey (including relative abundance, length distribution, and age structure) and habitat survey completed on water to be classified
Survey on file at what location Baldwin
- Water leader has consulted with other Water Division Bureaus, especially for class III waters.
Date 6-19-13 Sent email 6-18-13
- Public notice published in local newspaper or other media
Date 7-15-13
- Notice sent to all clerks of the county, town, city, or village in which the stream is located
Date 7-16-13
- Notice sent to legislators in the affected districts
Date 7-16-13
- Notice sent to chairpersons of legislative committees with jurisdiction for natural resources issues
Date 7-16-13
- No hearing requested 30 days after public notice
- Hearing requested, held, and classification recommended
Date _____

Signed: Author of Checklist Walter P. Engel Date 8-15-13
 Fish Team Supervisor [Signature] Date 8/15/2013
 Water Leader Dean Heber Date 8/15/2013

Stream Classification Report

LITTLE TRIMBELLE CREEK

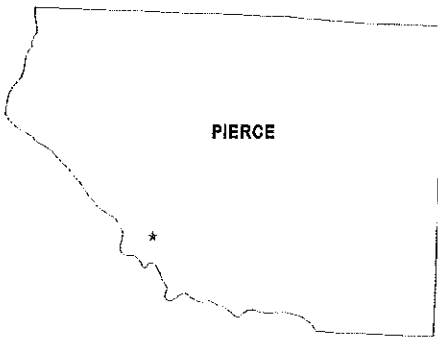
WBIC: 2447100

Pierce County

Trenton and Trimbelle Twp.

Category 4 Trout Fishing Regulation

Class II Trout Stream



STREAM DESCRIPTION:

Length: 5.3 miles with 5.3 miles of Class II trout water.

Mean Stream Width: 5.7m

Gradient: 25.5 ft/mi

Base Flow Stream Discharge: 0.13cms

Stream Character: Coldwater

Stream Order: 3

Habitat Rating: Fair at St. 1 & 3 (2005)

IBI Rating: Good at St. 2 (2012)

Ecoregion: Driftless Area

STOCKING RECORDS: Brook trout fingerling were stocked annually from 1975 to 1996, and feral brook trout fingerling from 1997 to 2001.

LITTLE TRIMBELLE CREEK is a small spring-fed tributary to the Trimbelle River. Its headwaters begin near the City of Ellsworth in central Pierce County. It then flows southwest to the Trimbelle River just north of STH 35. The Little Trimbelle is a coulee type stream with significant flooding problems because of steep hills in the watershed.

Fish habitat ratings in 2005 were Fair at Stations 1 and 3. Bank erosion is moderate and substrate consists of fine sediments interspersed with cobble and gravel. There often is a lack of suitable cover for adult and quality size trout.

Little Trimbelle Creek has numerous unnamed intermittent streams entering along its length.

FISHERY:

Early surveys (1973) did not find trout in Little Trimbelle Creek and it was considered a marginal forage species stream. Severe flooding and poor land use practices had degraded the stream and made trout survival difficult. Brook trout fingerling were stocked annually in the Little Trimbelle beginning in 1975. Brown trout stocking records are absent. Either some of the Trimbelle River quotas were stocked in the Little Trimbelle River or browns migrated into the Little Trimbelle. By the mid-nineties, brook and brown trout survival increased to produce several year classes and strong natural reproduction became evident. Stocking was eliminated by 2002. Self-sustaining populations of both brook and brown trout were found at all stations surveyed in 2012 (Table 1). Brown trout dominated the lower reaches and brook trout were dominant in the headwaters (Station 4). Brown trout were found from 2.4 to 12.4 inches. Brook trout were found from 2.8 to 10.2 inches (Figure 1). Both trout species had multiple year classes present. Brook trout had moderate reproduction, while brown trout showed abundant

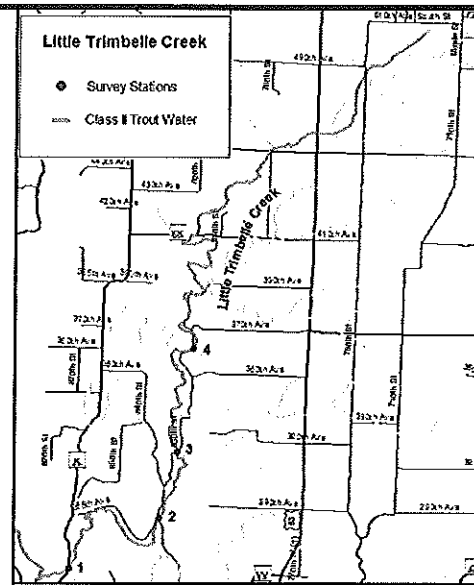
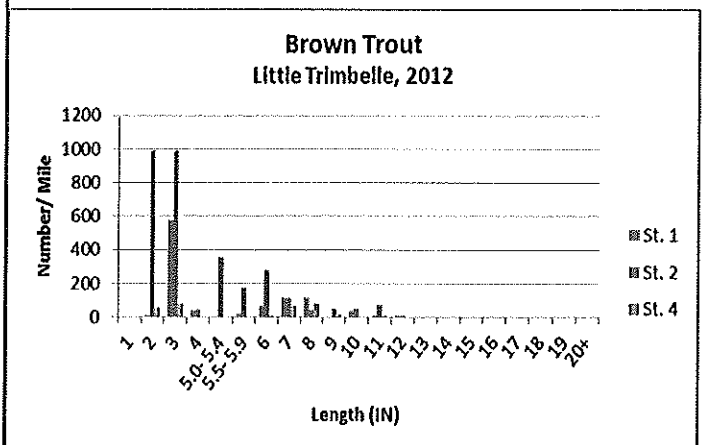
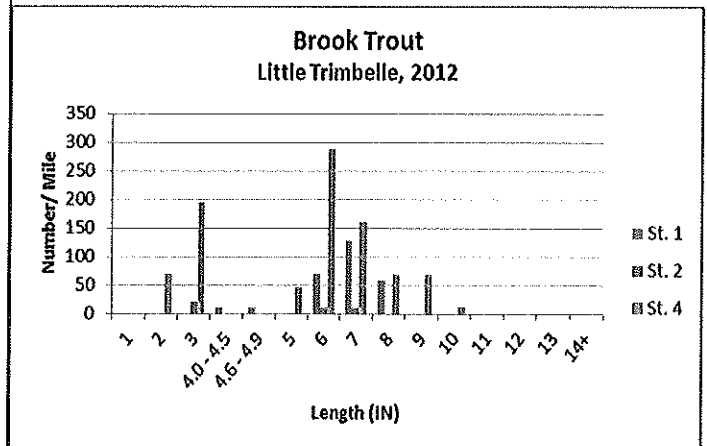


Figure 1 Length distributions



reproduction. Legal size (8"+) brook trout had low abundance at Station 2, moderate abundance at Station 1 and high abundance at Station 4. Legal browns (12"+) were in low abundance at all sites. Adult and quality size fish habitat is limited in parts of the stream.

The only other species beside trout that was sampled in Little Trimbelle was one brook stickleback (Table 2). The Coldwater Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) rating at Station 2 was Good. Healthy cold water streams generally have very few species in them, with the majority of individuals being trout. The high proportion of non-native trout (browns) are what prevent the Little Trimbelle from achieving an Excellent IBI score.

FUTURE MANAGEMENT:

Little Trimbelle Creek is currently classified as Class II trout water. Stocking no longer occurs here and the current trout population is self-sustaining. Current trout reproduction and densities warrant reclassification of the Little Trimbelle Creek from Class II to Class I brook and brown trout water.

Habitat improvements and addition of in-stream cover would likely be necessary to provide greater numbers of preferred size trout. However, the Little Trimbelle is currently under private ownership.

Continue to monitor the fishery using wadable coldwater stream survey protocol.

Table 1 Abundance of brook trout and brown trout (number per mile) at four stations on Little Trimbelle Creek. (-) indicates stations that were not surveyed.

Brook					Brown												
Year	St. 1		St. 2		St. 3		St. 4		Year	St. 1		St. 2		St. 3		St. 4	
	Juv.	Adult	Juv.	Adult	Juv.	Adult	Juv.	Adult		Juv.	Adult	Juv.	Adult	Juv.	Adult	Juv.	Adult
1973	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1973	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1974	0	89	246	639	0	158	-	-	1974	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
1975	0	0	392	75	-	-	-	-	1975	0	0	0	35	-	-	-	-
1996	0	0	158	53	223	158	141	288	1996	158	76	2294	334	24	153	70	141
2005	0	0	-	-	104	125	-	-	2005	29	400	-	-	326	1159	-	-
2012	10	265	22	22	-	-	265	644	2012	625	381	2372	805	-	-	138	196

Table 2 Relative abundance of fish species found in Little Trimbelle Creek

Species	St. 1	St. 2	St. 4
Brook Trout	28	4	79
Brown Trout	103	296	29
Brook Stickleback	-	1	-

For more information on Little Trimbelle Creek, you can contact the following persons:

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